

strangers. Along with Paula Boase, she collected warm clothing and blankets for the homeless and hand delivered these items to those in need. With a steadfast faith and a love of family guiding her, she is a pillar of strength to all who know her. To her family at home and to her "DCC Family" at work, she is truly irreplaceable.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Loretta Cannon for an exemplary 4 decades of dedicated public service. She has effectively served the Downriver community and the State of Michigan in her many roles with the Downriver Community Conference. I join with Loretta's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE WILLIAM WHITMORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George William Whitmore, who passed away on January 1, 2021. George was a veteran of the United States Air Force, a husband, friend, and a man who loved adventures with nature.

George was born on February 8, 1931 in Fresno, California to Raymond and Jean Whitmore. His father was a Marine during WWII and became a stockbroker when he got out of the service. His mother worked for Pacific Gas & Electric. During the Great Depression, the family moved to the Central Valley. George attended Salinas High School and decided to study at University of California, San Francisco earning a degree in 1954 as a Pharmacist. During his spare time, George enjoyed climbing and later decided to join the Air Force in the medical evacuation unit as an aeromedical evacuation officer.

After the Air Force, he decided to continue working as a pharmacist, but in the summer, he would spend his time hiking and climbing. George climbed the Andes in Peru and El Capitan at Yosemite with his friends, Warren Harding and Wayne Merry. He served in leadership roles for the Sierra Club, and served as a Chairman for the Tehipite Chapter based in Fresno, California.

George helped establish the Kaiser Wilderness in 1976 and the California Wilderness Act of 1984, which added 1.8 million acres into the National Wilderness Preservation System. He helped protect lakes and block dam projects and highways and also helped prevent Walt Disney Co. from developing a proposed ski resort at Mineral King in the 1960s and '70s. It was stopped after sustained opposition by the Sierra Club and other preservationists, and the valley subsequently became part of Sequoia National Park.

George battled cancer with his wife Nancy by his side. He and Nancy were together for over 40 years and were each other's best friend. George never lost his love for adventure. He enjoyed visiting with friends and he still participated in the Sierra Club meetings, continuing to educate people on the importance of preservation.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, niece Caroline and husband Bob, nephew Randy and his wife Betty.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of George William Whitmore for his service and contributions to the environment that surrounds us. I join his family and friends in celebrating George's life.

IN HONOR OF DOCTOR EDMUND W. ROBB III

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career and community service of Doctor Edmund W. Robb III, Senior Pastor of The Woodlands United Methodist Church.

Dr. Robb will be retiring as Senior Pastor of The Woodlands United Methodist Church after 43 years of honorable service. Before beginning his career with the church, Dr. Robb earned his Master of Theology from The Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. In 1978, Dr. Robb was appointed to start a new Methodist church in his growing community and began knocking on doors in the neighborhood to recruit members. The church was born when The Woodlands was just a budding community of young families, but under Dr. Robb's leadership, it has grown to over 14,000 members.

Dr. Robb is not only recognized today for his 43 years as an impactful pastor, but also for his dedicated service to The Woodlands community. He spent 20 years serving as an elected official of The Woodlands Township and its predecessor, Town Center Improvement District (TCID). Alongside State Senator Tommy Williams, he led the way in negotiating the agreement that would allow The Woodlands to become a Township. He was an instrumental guide in leading the TCID in partnering with private developers to build the Convention Center, develop Town Green Park and expand The Woodlands Waterway. Dr. Robb has also authored several published books, including "The Wonder of Christmas," "Under Wraps," "Mountaintop Moments" and "Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas." His commitment to our community has left a positive impact that will continue to influence The Woodlands area for generations.

Today, Dr. Robb continues to serve the community on the board of the Houston Methodist Hospital and as board Chairman of "A Foundation for Theological Education." He and his wife, Bev, are parents to three married children and grandparents to eight grandchildren. Though he is retiring, he will remain actively engaged as a leader in his community and a calming voice of reason to those around him.

After 43 years of exceptional work and service to our community, I am proud to join Dr. Robb's colleagues, family and friends in congratulating him on his retirement and thanking him for all that he has done for our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CLEMENCY HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Clemency Home Rule Act, which would give the District of Columbia exclusive authority, like the states and territories have, to grant clemency to offenders prosecuted under its local laws.

While District law appears to give the mayor authority to grant clemency (D.C. Code 1-301.76), it has been the opinion of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that the president, and not the mayor, has the authority to grant clemency for most offenses prosecuted under D.C. law, particularly felonies prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney for D.C. in the D.C. Superior Court. Under current practice, clemency petitions for D.C. convictions, like federal convictions, are submitted to DOJ for the president's consideration.

Whether or not DOJ's view is correct, my bill would remove all doubt that the District, and not the president, has the authority to issue clemency for local offenses. The District, like the states and territories, should have full control of its local criminal justice system, the most basic responsibility of local government. Since the D.C. Council has the authority to enact local laws, District officials are in the best position to grant clemency for local law convictions. My bill would provide clemency authority to the District and would give D.C. the discretion to establish its own clemency system.

This bill is an important step in establishing further autonomy for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN MEMORY OF PRITAM GREWAL

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Pritam Singh Grewal, one of North Jersey's most compassionate community leaders. Raised in India, Pritam immigrated directly to the Fifth District in 1972 and dedicated himself to our community ever since. He was truly an unselfish and deeply caring man who made an impact on everyone who crossed his path.

As a founding member of Glen Rock's Sikh Gurudwara, Pritam helped build a safe space for North Jersey's Sikh community to come together and worship. Having personally visited several times, I can attest to the special atmosphere he instilled in this important Glen Rock establishment.

Pritam always felt a calling to promote quality education throughout his community. He taught mechanical engineering at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and later partnered with his brother, Amarjit, to establish the Grewal, Harchand Singh and Jagir Kaur Memorial Scholarship of Ramapo College, in memory of his late parents.

Pritam was also widely known throughout Hackensack University Medical Center where